

WASHINGTON - Today, Congressman John W. Olver (1st District) announced that \$1.5 million will be made available for the expansion and improvement of the Berkshire County Airports. "These funds will help both airports to expand access and improve safety," Olver said. Congressman Olver is a member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation. "The proposed runway expansions will provide the entire county with the ability to attract new business and tourism. Funding for Pittsfield will be applied to the first phase of its five-year master plan, which is currently under review. Olver added, "This has been a cooperative effort that has involved the mayors, the airports, and the state. Also included in the FY '01 Transportation Appropriations bill is language that requires the state to match federal funds for transportation projects in Central and Western Massachusetts. "If this language has its desired effect, transportation projects in Central and Western Massachusetts will be able to receive federal funding for the first time in over 20 years."

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